

beaten with impunity, while political prisoners face years of jail time. The new guilty verdict imposed on Mikhail Khodorkovsky late last year makes it appear that the only crime that's actually punishable in the Russian Federation is opposition to Putin.

Days after the verdict was handed down, opposition leader and former Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov was arrested for participating in a peaceful rally. He had committed the grave offense of expressing support for the protection of constitutional rights and condemning the sham Khodorkovsky verdict.

Hostility to the rule of law extends beyond Russia's own borders, as we saw in the August 2008 invasion of our democratic ally Georgia. Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity remains under threat today.

In our relationship with Moscow, we must learn to balance the twin imperatives of effective engagement and criticism of gross miscarriages of justice. This will only become more essential in the context of the coming debate on Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Russia has moved closer than ever to acceding to the WTO. We are likely to face this prospect in the coming year and the resulting vote on whether to extend Permanent Normal Trade Relations. We will need to have a full and robust debate on this issue. We will need to ensure that PNTR is not granted until we have confirmed that Russia has fulfilled the basic obligations that WTO membership demands.

If those obligations are met, my view is that WTO accession would be a very positive step forward. Bringing Russia into a rules-based trading system would bind Moscow to the rule of law. It would create consequences and enforcement mechanisms for failure to live by its commitments. WTO membership is by no means a panacea, particularly for systems as deeply flawed as Russia's. But it would be a significant step in the right direction.

Not only would it impose the rule of law in Russia's trading relationships. It would demonstrate that even Moscow recognizes the value of international rules of fairness. This should serve as a reminder that their presumed indifference to our criticism is no excuse for failing to voice that criticism. We need to engage with Russia, but Russia also needs to engage to with us. We cannot shy away from taking a public stand against increasingly brutal repression at the hands of those with whom we have important negotiations.

Neither can we lose sight of the fact that supporting the rule of law is not just about promoting American ideals. One of the most important lessons of the last decade is that democracy strengthening is as firmly grounded in realpolitik as it is steeped in lofty, high-minded ideals. If our moral clarity helps to strengthen democracy advocates in Russia, we will further our strategic goals in the long run. A less corrupt, less autocratic regime in Moscow will result in a better international partner.

As Vladimir Kara Murza has written in *World Affairs*, defending the rule of law is not just our right but our duty. Last week Vladimir wrote that statutes of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to which both the U.S. and Russia are party, make this clear. The statutes state "issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law are of international concern, as respect for these rights and freedoms con-

stitutes one of the foundations of the international order" and "commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States."

As a member of key international bodies and an aspirant to the WTO, Russia has subjected itself to international norms. The U.S. and its Western allies must take seriously the responsibility to hold Russia accountable for its commitments and its actions.

The Russian people have a long and tremendous history. Their government has very tragically tried to return this great people to a dark chapter of that history. But if we refuse to stay silent in the face of egregious human rights violations while constructively engaging in key negotiations, I believe we can effectively encourage positive change in Russia.

RECOGNIZING MARY EVELYN ARNOLD

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize Mary Evelyn Arnold, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2011 Alcaldessa, or Honorary Mayor.

The title, "Alcalde" or "Alcaldessa" when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for "Mayor." During the Spanish colonial period in California, the Alcalde was the primary civil authority. In modern times in the City of Sonoma, it is an honorary title and the contemporary Alcalde or Alcaldessa presides over ceremonial events for the city.

Alcaldes and Alcaldessas are nominated by the community and are representative of individuals with a long record of volunteer work. Ms. Arnold is no exception to this rule.

At the top of the list of Ms. Arnold volunteer passions is the library. She has served on both the Sonoma County Library Commission and as Chair of the Sonoma Valley Library Advisory Board.

She also serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Investment Committee at Vintage House, organizes the Wednesday cooking crew at Meals on Wheels and bakes birthday cakes for the WillMar Center, which offers support and counseling for children and teens grieving the death of a loved one.

Pets Lifeline (where she is the unofficial cat cuddler), Kiwanis Club of Sonoma Plaza and the AAUW Scholarship Committee round out her volunteer community activities.

Ms. Arnold is also very active in her church, serving on the Committee on Ministry of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and serves as Vice Moderator of the First Congregational Church of Sonoma.

Ms. Arnold moved to Sonoma County in 1987 and was the co-owner of a specialty wine business and worked for the Wine Business Monthly and Wine Business Insider for several years, finishing her career with internet.com.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Evelyn Arnold is the quintessential volunteer, a dynamic and well respected member of the community. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge her

today as the City of Sonoma's Alcaldessa for 2011.

HONORING MICHAEL LATIKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Latiker. Mr. Latiker was the first born to the late Charlie and Earnestine Latiker. He is a lifelong resident of Yazoo City, Mississippi. He attended school in Yazoo City and graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1977. Michael is a man with a heart of gold. He is a selfless servant to the public, a helping hand to those in need, a visitor of the sick, and a fierce friend.

Latiker was introduced to Christianity at an early age by his parents. He is an active and a most dedicated member of King Solomon Baptist Church, where he serves on the deacon board and a committed usher. Besides his Christian duties, he acquired other responsibilities which include: The Outreach Program of the community established by Herman Leach, The King Solomon Male Choir, softball coach of males at Roy Capernella Park (ages 6 through 14), Yazoo Brotherhood and mentor for the youth as well as his children Roderick Miguel, Verneda, and Eureka.

Michael's work never ends without a loving smile. No task for him has ever been too enormous. The philosophy he shares, "Never too early; Never too late, Just call." He has affected and changed the lives of many people and has made the community a better place in which to live. With his faith in Christ, he in a portrait true of brotherhood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed several votes on February 14, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 35, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions, and "no" on rollcall No. 36, final passage of H.R. 514.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH ACCEPTING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today President George H.W. Bush accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama.

President Bush, dubbed "41," and I share the common bond very few combat veterans have experienced. We both were shot down while flying for our country. I am thrilled to report that he had a better experience after the

shoot down than I did, but it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that instantly bonds you with fellow survivors. I will always recall the day that I said goodbye to him on the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base as he left Washington when President Clinton took office. I still hang the note that he wrote me thanking me for being there in my office. He's just that kind of personable guy who not only thinks of the little things that helps people feel great, he makes time for them.

To commemorate the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, I would like to submit a poem, the *Man the Lord Pulled from the Sea*, written by Albert Caswell.

Congratulations, President Bush. You're an outstanding American and a great patriot. God bless you, and I salute you.

THE MAN THE LORD PULLED FROM THE SEA
A patriot's plane was shot from the sky . . .
Would this brave heart live or die?
What was to be?

With his two comrades gone . . .
As their fine souls rose up to Heaven, with
our Lord living on, eternally . . .
And from the heavens up above, our Lord
God in his love . . . reached down and
pulled this Hero, this Man From The
Sea!

Our 41st President . . . born,
George Herbert Walker Bush in Milton
Massachusetts . . . on June 12th,
1924 . . .

Score a lifetime of public service, to his Nation
so great be assured!
As none other in history, have so equaled so
before!

When all is said and done, his records are the
ones . . .

The historians will contend, are one of the
greatest Presidents I'm sure!

Born of wealth, power, social prestige and
such fame . . .

How so easily, he could have so
made . . . his life just a game!

Instead, he chose public service . . .
As had too, his most distinguished Father
Prescott Bush . . . all of Senate fame!

With a lifetime of public service, he can now
so claim . . .

Has so given even greater honor, to that al-
ready prestigious family name!

Just out of Phillips Academy, at 18 as he
knew he had to be . . .

Off to war for this his country 'Tis A
Thee . . . ready to die!

With, The World To Be Saved, and a war to
be won!

This hero flew off, to that land of the rising
sun, up in the sky . . .

Not hiding behind social position, as the
world lie in such a horrid condition!

All because, patriot's never ask why!
Leaving, he was barely a man . . .

But returning home, as before us now so
stood a hero so grand . . .

One of America's Best, no one denies!
As once again, in 1944 he was so blessed . . .

As he wed his true love and wonderful wife,
Barbara Pierce no less . . .

And still, to this very day . . .

Their great love story and wonderful family
they consider, of their life's greatest of
all success!

Returning home, as straight to Yale . . .
As his heart would so roam, eager to grow at
Andover he had been ready to
learn . . .

Captain of a championship baseball team,
even then the word Bush meant lead!

As great respect as a Leader, he had so
earned . . .

For athletics and exercise, he truly
yearns . . .

For within his heart, this great passion and
way of life has ever so burned!

As a cowboy at heart, as so soon he drove off
westward ho . . . out of town . . .

As to Texas as an oilman, he was so surely
bound . . .

Then, giving up his company he had built
from the ground . . .

As when inside his great heart, so came a
calling sound!

So soon he discovered, it was public service
that he was in love with . . .

Where his future and heart, and life's work
were so to be found . . .

Following his respected Dad, Prescott foot-
steps into Congress for two terms . . .

And as the head of the CIA, as all of those
commies he so burned . . .

Ever striving to improve, growing and learn-
ing, as The Man On The Move, as for
great challenges his heart ever
yearned!

With it becoming clear, that "The White
House" was ever near, and all of the
World... The Name of Bush would so
soon learn . . .

Serving as Vice President . . . for two
terms . . .

As no higher respect . . . in this that office
has so since been so returned!

As Timber Wolf, was the "Go To Guy"!
Among world leaders, his respect was so very
high!

That's something, that which must be so
earned!

Then The President in 88, no more accom-
plished resume has ever been so great!

As has had The Electoral College so con-
firmed!

As history one day . . . shall so forever
say . . .

No more productive 12 years of Executive
service, has ever come her way!

Because in 12 years . . . such incredible
events!

As a real future for our children, had so
commenced . . .

As the records will say . . .
Bush and respect, and World leadership, are
now one in the same . . .

As communism fell, do you remember that
magnificent day?

Our Lord so remembers, your great fight and
devotion doing right . . .

To save that most sacred gift of life, "The
Unborn Child!"

As now, high above you he so stands so
proud . . .

With tears in his eyes, as all across the heav-
ens with great smile . . .

For each and every life, is so precious and so
dear . . .

For it's our Lord's greatest gift which so
blesses us, as Robin your sweet child so
clear!

While, all of the others questioned . . . it
was you who so drew that line in the
sand! "This aggression shall not
stand!"

Mr. President, your plan saved the Mid East!
Bringing together each, Jewish and Arab,
woman and Man . . .

For you had seen Hitler, and the evils that
men do . . .

As you all in your lifetime, had so lived
through . . . "No Never Again!"

As you had stood in harms way once before!
And you knew of the great cost to families in
of war!

So you followed a code!
Giving to each and every hero, all that they
would so need so!

So that they could so carry that load!
As you said, "if a hero must die valiantly in
this honor's code!"

Then, to their loved ones . . . their true fine
worth must be showed!

And no classier First Lady, or President
have ever so graced our Heartland . . .

Reaching out to all, with but a warm
hand . . .

The Old System, a Member of The Gold
System . . . for which you so surely
stand!

In your treatment, of the average woman
and so man . . .

We come this way but only once, and how
the big people treat us, so surely
makes our world's of such . . .

All in our Lord's plans . . .
For in this Capitol Town, the words class are
often found . . .

Whenever, the name of George Bush we so
sound!

As his secret service tell of a man so re-
nowned!

While, working for Timber Wolf in
town . . . he's a guy they love to be
around!

With his great sense of humor, as him and
Dana roll on the ground . . .

And his buddy Arnold, never lets him down!
On your last days in office, how some people
had forgotten what you had
done . . . "Oh, how it gives us such pain!"

But, history shall be far kinder and remem-
ber your name . . .

And never forget your great record there, as
always will remain . . .

As it's your words which so ring true, indeed
it is what you do! "It's all about
character" . . . Time and Time Again!

Now, listen ever closely . . .
From up in the Heavens up above . . .

As our Lord looks down upon you, on this
earth in all of his love . . .

As he's been watching you, throughout all of
these years . . .

As these words you may hear, on a gentle
breeze from up above . . .

"George my Son, you've never let me
down" . . .

I'm so glad that I pulled you, from the sea as
I found . . . on the wings of a
dove" . . .

—Albert Caswell

HONORING JOSEPH CLEOPHUS DAVIS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speak-
er, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Cleophus
Davis, Sr., a long time resident of Port Gibson,
Mississippi for 53 years. He was born June 5,
1934 in Claiborne County, Mississippi, to the
union of Benjamin Davis, Jr. and Paris Smith,
and he shares the June 5th birth date with his
mother who celebrated her 102nd birthday on
June 5, 2010. Joseph was reared by his paternal
grandparents Abby & Benjamin Davis, Sr.
and his father in Lorman, Mississippi. Mr. Jo-
seph Davis attended the Jefferson County
Schools before he enlisted in the United
States Army at the age of 18. He served his
country for 3 years, being station at Ladd Air
force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska; and at Fort
McCullum Army Base in Anderson, Alabama,
he served 6 months in the capacity of TDY/
Military Policeman. While serving in the Army
Reserve in 1961 he was inducted back into
active duty because of the Berlin Crisis. He re-
ceived an Honorable Discharge from the
United States Army in 1962.

Mr. Joseph Davis was employed with the
Westin House Electric Company from August
1965 through April 1967. Mr. Joseph Davis